

Remarks

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 5-8 and 17 recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants hereby add new claims 21-23 and cancel claims 5, 13, 17. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-16, and 18-23 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-4, 9-16, 18-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 5,933,676 to Ohno.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and urge allowance of the present application.

Claim 1 includes limitations of previously pending claim 5. Claim 1 is allowable in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

The claims which depend from independent claim 1 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Claim 11 includes limitations of previously pending claim 13. Claim 11 recites *receiving a request within the image forming device from a source external of the image forming device, and the communicating data regarding the environmental condition comprises communicating responsive to the receiving*. The Office Action is devoid of any identification of teachings of Ohno which allegedly disclose or suggest limitations of previous claim 13. In fact, Ohno at col. 5, lines 5-12, explicitly teaches receiving environmental information and communicating the information to external devices 101 with no mention of the communicating occurring responsive to a request or other communication from an external source. Ohno is devoid of any teachings regarding *receiving the claimed request or communicating the data responsive to the received request*. Claim 11 recites positively-recited limitations not shown nor suggested in the prior art and claim 11 is allowable for at least this reason.

Applicants respectfully request issuance of a non-final action if claim 11 is not found to be allowable. In particular, Applicants respectfully request identification *in a non-final action* of elements which allegedly correspond to

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Amendment A

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limitations of the claims in accordance with 37 C.F.R §1.104(c)(2). In particular, 37 C.F.R §1.104(c)(2) provides that *the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified*. Further, 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) states that the Examiner must cite the best references at their command. When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by Applicants, the particular teachings relied upon must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference if not apparent must be clearly explained for each rejected claim specified. Applicants respectfully request clarification of the rejections with respect to specific references and specific references teachings therein pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) in a non-final Action if any claims are not found to be allowable.

The claims which depend from independent claim 11 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Claim 16 recites limitations of previously pending claim 17. Claim 16 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

The claims which depend from independent claim 16 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

New claim 21 includes limitations of unamended claim 1 and previously pending claim 8. New claim 21 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

New claim 22 includes limitations of unamended claim 1 and a humidity limitation of claim 9. The Office Action fails to identify any teachings which allegedly disclose monitoring humidity. Applicants have electronically searched Ohno and have failed to uncover any humidity teachings. Limitations of new claim 22 are not shown nor suggested by the art and claim 22 is allowable. Applicants request a non-final action in accordance with the CFR if claim 22 is not allowed.

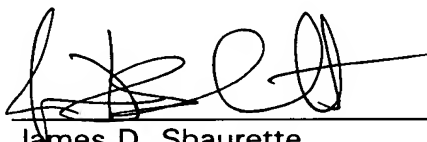
New claim 23 includes limitations of unamended claim 1 and claim 2. The Office Action fails to identify any teachings which allegedly disclose the claimed interface of claim 1 comprising a memory of a consumable. Ohno fails to disclose or suggest a *consumable comprising a memory*. Ohno further fails to disclose or suggest the *interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least one environmental condition using the claimed memory of the consumable*. Limitations of new claim 23 are not shown nor suggested by the art and claim 23 is allowable. Applicants request a non-final action in accordance with the CFR if claim 23 is not allowed.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned if the Examiner believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

Respectfully submitted,
Srinivas Guddanti
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By:



4/24/03

James D. Shaurette
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